



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

Issue 275, 21 March 2011

[info@spillcontrol.org](mailto:info@spillcontrol.org)

<http://www.spillcontrol.org>

**COME AND VISIT  
ISCO AT IOSC 2011  
BOOTH No 242**

**INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY  
Spill Response Supplies and  
Services**

Use our directory to find the company you need. It's the quick and easy way to contact the key suppliers in the industry. Click on the links below.

[Consultants](#)

[Equipment & Materials](#)

[Response Organisations](#)

[Training Providers](#)

Clicking on any entry will display the advertiser's website.

## Reach your Market

Advertising is FREE for ISCO Corporate Members. For non-members one advert is just GBP 500 per annum. Entries should be submitted in JPG format, size approx. 490 x 120 pixels.

Contact [info@spillcontrol.org](mailto:info@spillcontrol.org) for more information.

**HAVE THIS NEWSLETTER  
DELIVERED DIRECTLY  
TO YOUR DESK**

[Join the ISCO Newsletter Mailing List](#)

## BECOME A MEMBER OF ISCO

ISCO aims to raise worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, to promote technical development and professional competency, and to provide a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations.

[Application Form](#)



## News

### JAPAN: COURAGE IN ADVERSITY

At this time members of the spill response community will be sharing feelings of empathy, sympathy and admiration for the emergency workers who are striving to contain losses of radioactive materials from the stricken reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in Japan.

Mark Magnier of the Los Angeles Times writes "In Japan they call them the "Faceless 50." They are the workers at the ravaged Fukushima nuclear plant who stayed to fight the fires and keep the reactors from melting down"

"We all support them and want them to be successful," said Shinichi, 34, a banker who gave only his first name as he waited in line to buy gas for company vehicles in Tagajo, about 70 miles north of the battle to save the reactors. "They're probably the 50 hardest-working people in the world right now. But I'd do the same thing."

"As the Japanese are tested with disasters beyond their imagining, many see the bravery of the Faceless 50 as the epitome of group responsibility, known as *Yamato-damashi*, or Japanese spirit. That collective consciousness is almost second nature to the Japanese, Shinichi said, especially in times of crisis."

"This is our Yamato spirit," he said. "We don't understand where it comes from. But we all have it." [Read more](#)

In a similar vein, Michael Friedlander of the New York Times writes "We will likely hear numerous stories of heroism over the next several days, of plant operators struggling to keep water flowing into the reactors, breathing hard against their respirators under the dim rays of a handheld flashlight in the cold, dark recesses of a critically damaged nuclear plant, knowing that at any moment another hydrogen explosion could occur".

"These operators will be hailed as heroes, and deservedly so. But if they are like the rest of the tightly knit community of nuclear workers, they will simply say they were doing their job". [Read more](#)

Most of us in the rest of the world can only look on and hope their efforts will be successful but it has been announced that Japan will accept international help in this nuclear crisis.

USA Today reports "Japan's top government spokesman said Tokyo is willing to accept U.S. help in dealing with the country's nuclear crisis, and is discussing the matter with Washington".

## News (continued)

Spokesman Yukio Edano said, "We are coordinating with the U.S. government as to what the U.S. can provide and what people really need. We have repeatedly asked for specific support, and indeed, they are responding to that." [Read more](#)

And Voice of America News has reported "The commander of U.S. military forces in the Pacific says he is sending his troops into the danger zone near the Japan's crippled nuclear power plants as needed, and if necessary he will send more to help prevent a meltdown of the reactors' fuel and the release of large amounts of harmful radiation.

In a phone call from his headquarters in Hawaii, Admiral Robert Willard told reporters at the Pentagon everything possible must be done to avoid the worst case scenario. "That would be a situation where the recovery effort to keep the cores covered in these reactors would ever be abandoned. And we believe that that can't happen, that we must do everything required to keep water and cooling affecting these reactors," said Willard. [Read more](#)

At this point in time ISCO has not been asked to assist in finding needed resources but an ISCO member, Marine Pollution Control Corporation (MPC) has advised that, with the need for delivery of cooling water in mind, it has offered to make available up to ten high capacity air-transportable pumping systems. This offer of help has been channeled via the US government. MPC holds 26 of these systems immediately available at strategic coastal locations in the USA, and at Singapore, Hong Kong, China and Honolulu. These diesel-hydraulic submersible pump systems are normally used for emergency response to oil tanker and other shipping emergencies.

---

## INSIGHTS FROM OIL SPILL AIR POLLUTION STUDY HAVE APPLICATIONS BEYOND GULF

During a special airborne mission to study the air-quality impacts of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill last June, NOAA researchers discovered an important new mechanism by which air pollution particles form. Although predicted four years ago, this discovery now confirms the importance of this pollution mechanism and could change the way urban air quality is understood and predicted.

The NOAA-led team showed that although the lightest compounds in the oil evaporated within hours, it was the heavier compounds, which took longer to evaporate, that contributed most to the formation of air pollution particles downwind. Because those compounds are also emitted by vehicles and other combustion sources, the discovery is important for understanding air quality in general, not only near oil spills.

"We were able to confirm a theory that a major portion of particulate air pollution is formed from chemicals that few are measuring, and which we once assumed were not abundant enough to cause harm," said Joost de Gouw, lead author of a new paper on the finding, published in the March 11 edition of Science. [Read more](#)

---

## USA: NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY NEEDS TO CLEAN UP ITS ACT

The *New York Times* recently published a [series](#) of articles about the natural gas boom sweeping America. Roughly 75,000 wells have been drilled in the past five years alone, and tens of thousands more are planned for the near future.

But as the articles revealed, much of this expansion is taking place with little or insufficient oversight from the agencies charged with protecting public health and the environment.

Indeed, the gas industry has secured exemptions from most of the major federal environmental laws, including the Safe Drinking Water Act; it simply doesn't have to follow all the same rules other industries do. And it has grown so fast that regulators can't keep pace. The state of West Virginia, for instance, has only 12 inspectors to monitor 60,000 wells. Other states are similarly overwhelmed. [Read more](#)

---

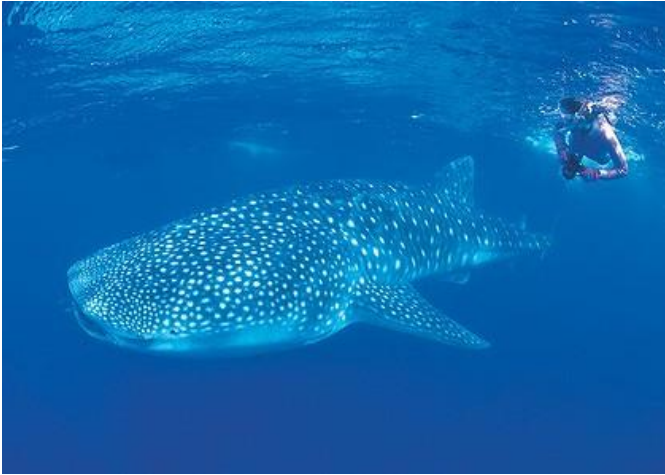
## USA, ALASKA: EQUIP FISHING BOATS TO FIGHT OIL SPILLS

As members of tribal, commercial fishing, and environmental communities whose cultural, economic, and spiritual livelihoods depend on a healthy marine ecosystem in the NW, we join together to inform people of a rare opportunity to advance oil spill regulations without having to suffer a spill first. The state House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed [HB 1186](#) bolstering the state's ability to respond to large oil spills. It is now up to Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Marine Waters, to pass the same bill this Wednesday.

The record-sized BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill last Earth Day has focused the state Legislature on improving the oil industry's ability to respond to a worst-case spill in Washington where BP runs the largest refinery. Three critical provisions in the House bill requires the oil industry to invest in state-of-the-art spill response equipment, train fishermen around the state in the deployment of such gear, and to conduct at least one large-scale oil spill equipment deployment drill every three years. [Read more](#)

---

## AUSTRALIA: SHELL NINGALOO DRILLING FACES TOUGH RULES



The Ningaloo Reef - famous for its whale sharks - has been added to the world heritage list.

Energy giant Shell faces increasingly rigorous environmental regulatory requirements to win approval for oil and gas exploration near Western Australia's Ningaloo Reef.

Shell has applied for federal approval for 60 days' exploration drilling in an area about 50km west of the Ningaloo marine park's boundary.

Environmentalists say the risk of an oil spill is too great, near one of the world's most biodiverse coral reef systems and migration routes for whales, dolphins, turtles and whale sharks.

[Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group for providing the link to this report]

---

## SHIP CONTAINER 'STEPPING STONE' RISK FOR ALIEN INVADERS

A shipping container lost off the coast of California in 2004 is now teeming with underwater life, say scientists who returned to it with a robotic sub.

However, it is unclear whether the "artificial reef" that the container provides is a beneficial one.

Containers could provide a "stepping stone" route for invasive species to colonise new areas, the team says.

The unique study sheds light on the problem of the estimated 10,000 such containers that are lost each year. It is estimated that some 200 million shipping containers are used globally each year, and that at any one time, between five and six million containers are in transit. [Read more](#)

---

## TRANSCANADA PIPELINE FACES EXTENDED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed Keystone XL pipeline from TransCanada to carry Canadian oil sands oil to Gulf Coast refineries will be further delayed as the U.S. government conducts extended environmental review of the drastic undertaking.

The action by the U.S. seeking public comment in mid-April on the pipeline is in response from environmental groups calling on the Obama administration to further investigate before making a decision. The decision should be made by the end of the year, with opposition from environmentalists increasing the present fear of another North American oil disaster and contamination of key drinking water sources.

New studies by U.S. environmental organizations said there is a warning for higher risk of corrosion-related spills due to the higher number of abrasives, temperature, and acidity in tar sands oil. TransCanada has rebutted this claim. [Read more](#)

---

## FOCUS ON BIGGEST RISKS IN DRILLING

The Obama administration and the presidential Oil Spill Commission have sought sweeping changes in drilling and its regulatory structure. But some changes haven't gained political traction while others have unnecessarily delayed the return of safe operators.

Now a group of independent scientists and drilling experts is suggesting a more practical route to resume safe drilling -- and government and industry officials need to consider their advice.

The Deepwater Horizon Study Group, led by University of California at Berkeley professor Bob Bea, is set to release its final report next week. It calls for a more focused approach that concentrates political will and industry resources on addressing drilling's riskiest practices. [Read more](#)

---

### WORKING TOGETHER TO MITIGATE DISASTERS

**An article contributed by Dr M. Sardesai, Member of ISCO Council for the USA, Elizabeth Gibbons and Fenelon Ashley, of the Chemical Incident Response Division of Marine Pollution Control, Detroit, MI 48209, USA.**

Many things were brought to light when we heard of the tragedy that occurred March 11, 2011. The Earth's tectonic volatility is something we face rather frequently, but results are rarely as tragic and devastating as they were Friday morning on Japan's northeast coast. As we reflect in distressed uncertainty, a tragic irony hovers over us as we approach reconstruction.

One of the most critically present dilemmas does not originate with the natural order of the earth's chaotic temper. It does not result from a wave, shake, or whirlwind. It stems from a human discovery to manipulate the fission and fusion of atomic particles. Once used for warfare, humans learned that using this nuclear phenomenon to destroy fellow mankind would embody human intelligence in vain. Living in a world where these primary ideas were weaponry, innovators of the time harnessed these collective ideas to invent nuclear power for a presumably beneficial use for mankind. As a recently developed technology, we are now faced with the unanticipated end result of what we created in the first place.

This trend of unanticipated consequences has been manifesting itself in various ways throughout the last century causing environmental nightmares. A year ago the world watched as 200 million gallons of crude oil accidentally spilled into the Gulf of Mexico. It took three months to gather enough resources and expertise to contain the spill. In 1967 a United States supertanker carrying 120,000 tons of crude oil shipwrecked on the western coast of England, where two salvors had perished. Ironically, the only federal pollution prevention regulation the U.S. had at the time was the Rivers and Harbors Act (Refuse Act). The Refuse Act was implemented in 1899 as a statute governing the use of waterways, which prohibited dumping of waste into navigable waters. Because of the lack of knowledge in the 1960s to cope with an incident of this magnitude, an environmental disaster ensued. That led to the birth of pollution prevention from the federal governmental bodies such as the Department of Interior and the United States Coast Guard in the late 60s.

Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, brought public consciousness to the hazards of pesticides and other environmental concerns and helped set the stage for the Environmental Movement. DDT, developed in 1939, quickly became the pesticide of choice because it could kill various species of insects at once. It was used during WW II to kill malaria-causing insects as well as body lice, and its inventor was awarded a Nobel Prize.

Whereas DDT was once considered a miracle compound, Carson's book described its contamination of the food chain resulting in cancer, genetic damage, deaths of entire species, and persistent toxicity in the environment. Although Carson was attacked by the chemical industry in an effort to discredit and silence her message, the President's Science Advisory Committee agreed with the science behind her findings. As a result, DDT became government-regulated and was eventually banned.

Carson's environmental vision is relevant even when applied to today's pending nuclear catastrophe. She remarked in a 1964 CBS documentary that, "Man's attitude toward nature is today critically important simply because we have now acquired a fateful power to alter and destroy nature. But man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself. We are challenged as mankind has never been challenged before to prove our maturity and our mastery, not of nature, but of ourselves."

Another citation is that of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The ground-breaking introduction of PCBs as a common oil coolant met success only later to reveal toxic effects on the endocrine and central nervous systems. Although there were adverse health effects reported soon after its introduction, its use was continued since it was considered a miracle chemical that could not be replaced. Unfortunately, PCBs were dumped into the Hudson River, causing contamination over a 200 mile stretch of river, which was then declared a Superfund Site.

Now with the prevailing nuclear event in Japan, we are faced with the net result of potentially dire consequences in our social history. The existence of organizations such as International Spill Control Organization (ISCO), The Spill Control Association of America (SCAA), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the American Salvage Association (ASA), and other organizations who share a common mission is even more important in our earthy environment to provide recognition and potential solutions following such manmade disasters; therefore, it is time to recognize the importance of our collective mission to work towards a unified goal. This could minimize the problems that we may face in the future.

## Products and services

### TACKLING THE HAZARDS OF HYDROGEN SULPHIDE AND MERCAPTANS

"Its chemistry is completely different to the numerous scavengers on the market today. HydraScav is a blend of inorganic compounds in an aqueous solution which is extremely fast and effective in converting H<sub>2</sub>S and mercaptans into a stable and benign bi-product.

The resulting bi-product is water and soluble sulfate salts (SO<sub>4</sub>), which are non hazardous and have a very low Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD).

The reaction is stable, non-corrosive, non-reversible and does not impact on oil, gas or fuel quality. The required injection rate is a fraction of traditional scavengers which is an advantage in costs as well as logistics.

## Products and services (continued)

When queried on the effectiveness of existing chemicals that remove H<sub>2</sub>S and mercaptans, Mr Snodgrass advised that: “Typically triazine/formaldehyde-based scavengers are used to encapsulate H<sub>2</sub>S molecules, this encapsulation can often break down and the H<sub>2</sub>S can reform.

To remove mercaptans, often a caustic wash is used which is effective, however you then have to treat the caustic before it can be safely disposed of and this is an additional costs.

HydraScav is neither of these, the reaction is stable, irreversible and the byproduct is easily disposed of.

One interesting area where we are now very active is in treating water. This includes water and sewage treatment plants, water-based drilling mud as well as production water. It is often cheaper to simply inject HydraScav to remove the H<sub>2</sub>S than to run sour water strippers.

You also don't have the capital costs of constructing the sour water strippers or the daily costs of running the heat exchanges. Additionally, HydraScav can be injected at the source which eliminates the need to pipe H<sub>2</sub>S contaminated water long distances to the treatment plant.

Plants which do not have sulphur recovery units will typically flare the H<sub>2</sub>S into the atmosphere.

“A recent trend has seen new refining and processing facilities that service high H<sub>2</sub>S fields being built with sulphur recovery units. But often oil and gas companies just want to quickly and safely get rid of the H<sub>2</sub>S,” Snodgrass explains.

“Their [oil and gas producers] primary task is producing oil and gas, they don't necessarily want to get involved in the sulphur retail business. As a commodity, granulised sulphur's value varies greatly; in some instances, the capital outlay involved in the installation and operation are difficult to justify.

HydraScav provides a cost-effective alternative to many producers in this position. As towns and cities in the region extend ever closer to upstream facilities, early and safe removal of H<sub>2</sub>S is vital. “The bottom line is that for clients the savings are significant, but it's difficult to change established and proven practices in the oil and gas industry. We are excited to introduce our technology and guide people's perceptions of what can be done to treat and eradicate mercaptans and H<sub>2</sub>S in the energy business,” Snodgrass concludes. [Read more](#)

---

## CONSILIUM MARINE & SAFETY AB'S OIL SPILL RADAR TESTED BY THE NORWEGIAN COASTAL ADMINISTRATION AND NOFO

The recently launched Oil Spill Radar by Consilium Marine & Safety was tested together with the Norwegian Coastal Administration and the Norwegian Clean Seas Association For Operative Companies (NOFO). Within months since the successful tests last July, the Consilium Oil Spill Detection Radar is celebrating a breakthrough by responding to an increasing demand. Consilium can already provide a considerable and valuable reference list of systems operating as Oil Spill Detection Radar - starting with the Finnish Icebreaker Kontio, commissioned as stand-by Vessel for EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency), followed by customers in Norway, Italy and China, as well as the most recent order for an Oil Spill Response Vessel for cleaning operation in the harbour of Rotterdam.

The key feature of the Oil Spill Radar is said to be the possibility to integrate a complete Oil Spill Detection function into Consilium's standard type approved IMO/Solas Navigational radar. Furthermore, the new advanced radar processing unit is supported by a special Consilium radar sensor and by its capability to increase the rotation speed of the antenna to up to 44 revolutions per minute.

As a result, ships in regular operations can use the primary radar set as a traditional instrument for navigation and the secondary radar display, interfaced to the primary radar, switched to the advanced function of Oil Spill Detection. Using both radar display functions simultaneously, the vessel acts as an efficient early warning anti-pollution unit while sailing along its route. For dedicated Oil Spill Response Vessels, the stress on the officer is reduced by the fact that he can operate on the same user-friendly graphical man-machine interface. [Read more](#)

---

## OILCLEAN BIOREMEDIATION AGENT RECEIVES EPA DESIGNATION

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has listed Pro-Act Biotech's OilClean bioremediation agent for oil-contaminated environments on the EPA National Contingency Plan Product Schedule. The non-invasive, innovative, and self-powered OilClean system automatically distributes oil-eating microbes, nutrients, and oxygen and features onsite and remote system management capabilities. [Read more](#)

---



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 18 in a series of articles contributed by Dr Douglas Cormack.

*Dr Douglas Cormack is an Honorary Member of ISCO. As the former Chief Scientist at the British Government's Marine Pollution Control Unit and head of the UK's first government agency, the Warren Spring Laboratory, Douglas is a well known and highly respected figure in the spill response community. He is the Chairman and a founder member of the [International Spill Accreditation Association](#)*

**KNOWLEDGE OF WATER-IMMISCIBLE SYSTEMS (CHAPTER 18)**

Having noted that segregation of ballast tanks had removed the need for tank-washing at the cost of reducing cargo capacity; and that shore reception facilities equipped with API gravity separation and downstream biological treatment were intended for otherwise unavoidable water-oil mixtures (c.f. article 17), I now review the process by which the efficiency of shipboard gravity-separation was increased for bilge water discharge.

As early as 1960, WSL staff had shown that bilge discharges were mostly water, the oil-content in the relatively prolonged middle period of discharge being about 30ppm on average; that the oil-content of the final period was in the percentage range from inclusion of the oil which had been floating in the bilge prior to and during the middle period; and that the initial period was again in the ppm range with inclusion of the oil which had coated the discharge-piping during the previous final period. Table 1 exemplifies the oil-contents for these respective periods.

Case	Initial Period, ppm	Middle Period, average ppm	Final Period %
1	46	10	1.7
2	165	20	15
3	25	8	11
4	209	90	11

Again, with respect to the then practice of ballasting fuel tanks, WSL staff investigated in 1962 the percentages of 3000 second Redwood No 1 fuel oil present as droplets < 254 µm in water-oil mixtures after passing through the range of pumps identified in Table 2.

Pump	% < 254 µm at 10 tonnes h	% < 254 µm at 6 tonnes h
Triple Screw	12	3
Single Vane	20	4
Double Vane	21	1
Rotary Gear	22	5
Reciprocating	24	9
Hypocycloidal	40	11
Diaphragm	-	12
Disc and Shoe	56	36
Centrifugal	56	56
Flexible Vane	-	98

It should be noted that a droplet size of 254 µm is considerably > the 150 µm taken to mark the presence of secondary dispersions (c.f. article 16). Nonetheless, theoretical considerations suggest that seagoing gravity separators are unlikely to coalesce droplets < 254 µm. Again, calculation shows that a pump producing > 2% of oil droplets < 254 µm with an inlet oil concentration of 5000ppm (0.5%) would produce an outlet concentration > the then IMO limit of 100ppm. Thus, despite the larger droplet sizes produced by de-rating by 60% all pumps except the centrifugal (Table 2), the prevalence of centrifugal pumps at sea, together with their high percentage production of droplets < 254 µm, suggested that the arbitrary IMO limit of 100ppm of oil in water discharges from ships would not be met; and that to measure the degree of non-compliance, the WSL investigators would have to measure the actual performance of the then current shipboard gravity separators.

1 *The Rational Trinity: Imagination, Belief and Knowledge*, D.Cormack, Bright Pen 2010 available at [www.authorsonline.co.uk](http://www.authorsonline.co.uk)  
 2 *Response to Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution*, D. Cormack, Applied Science Publishers, 1983.  
 3 *Response to Marine Oil Pollution - Review and Assessment*, Douglas Cormack, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999.

## Events

Events are listed here as soon as possible after they are notified to ISCO and will usually only be featured once in this column. To find a more comprehensive listing of upcoming events, including ones previously announced in this column, [click HERE](#)

### USA: IOSC 2011 – AN INVITATION FROM CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, BILL LERCH.

*Dear Prospective Attendee,*

It is my pleasure and privilege to personally invite you to attend the 2011 International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC), scheduled to be held in Portland, Oregon from May 23 through May 26. This conference's theme of "Promoting the Science of Spill Response" continues the long tradition of the IOSC since 1969 of providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and lessons learned from actual spill responses and research around the world. This conference will also continue the North American part of the Triennial Oil Spill Conference Cycle established in 2005, to be followed by Interspill 2012 (Europe) and Spillcon 2013 (SE Asia), before returning to North America in 2014. The triennial agreement permits industry, government, and academic stakeholders to focus on one major international technical conference per year. This, in turn, ensures maximum participation of subject matter experts from around the world and guarantees that the most recent case studies and lessons learned are addressed.



This year's conference will build on the highly successful format of the last IOSC held in Savanna, Georgia. We are excited about the number and scope of paper and poster presentations accepted this year. The IOSC will also continue hosting its well-received golf tournament on the first day and a gala dinner at the conclusion of the conference. These two events provide great opportunities for global, industry experts to foster technical and support networks in the relatively small community of oil spill response. The City of Portland and its surrounding communities will provide an exciting and enjoyable venue for the conference, and I hope that all of you can take advantage of what this scenic region has to offer.

I look forward to stimulating and challenging discussions and hope you will be able to join us at this year's conference.

Sincerely,  
Bill Lerch, Chairman  
2011 International Oil Spill Conference

---

### UK: OCEAN BUSINESS 2011 – SOUTHAMPTON, UK FROM 5-7 APRIL, 2011



The hands-on ocean technology exhibition and training forum

National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, UK 5 - 7 April 2011

#### **Need to better understand the marine environment? Ocean technology companies offering unique solutions for the spill industry**

During the recent Deepwater Horizon oil spill incident, a number of ocean technology companies were involved for the first time in offering unique solutions for monitoring and assisting with the clean-up operation.

These same companies and more will be exhibiting at the Ocean Business 2011 marine science and ocean technology exhibition that is being held in Southampton, UK from 5 - 7 April 2011. [www.oceanbusiness.com](http://www.oceanbusiness.com) .

The exhibition will house more than 300 exhibiting companies that will be exhibiting the latest range of products and services with direct applications and relevance to the spill industry:

**Environmental monitoring tools** including current meters, salinity measurement equipment, wave measuring tools and tide gauges

**Modelling and prediction software** to assist you with your planning.

**Meteorology solutions** designed to work in the toughest of marine environments

**Survey systems** to help you better understand the subsea environment and for use in the detection of oil on the seabed.

**AUV and ROVs** for inspection and control Remotely operated vehicles to assist with underwater requirements

**Leak detection systems** for future prevention

---

## Events

Events are listed here as soon as possible after they are notified to ISCO and will usually only be featured once in this column. To find a more comprehensive listing of upcoming events, including ones previously announced in this column, click [HERE](#)

### UK: HEALTH AND SAFETY REFORM 2011 CONFERENCE

A Common Sense Approach - 13<sup>th</sup> April, The Barbican, London

Judith Hackett, Chair, Health and Safety Executive, will deliver the morning presentation at the Health and Safety Reform conference.

The **Health and Safety Reform 2011 Conference** will be an important national forum. In the wake of Lord Young's report published last October, this one-day event aims to examine the changes to be implemented, discussing their impact to ascertain if they really will signal a 'turning point', as David Cameron states, to 'help stop the creep of unnecessary health and safety culture'.

These reforms, which have been supported in their entirety by the government, will not impact on important health and safety laws in hazardous workplaces but will tip the balance from the risk-adverse culture to one where common sense applies. [More info](#)

---

### IRAN: 3<sup>RD</sup> IRANIAN PIPE AND PIPELINE CONFERENCE, TEHRAN, MAY 24-25, 2011

Iran, with 22,000 km of gas and 14,000 km of oil pipelines already enjoys the biggest pipeline network of the Middle East. Pipeline construction projects, both onshore and offshore oil and gas pipelines with a great pipe manufacturing capability, has turned Iran into the region's most lucrative market in the pipe and pipeline industries.

Adding to these facts, the vast proven gas and oil reserves of Iran and its strategic placement in the region, connecting energy reserves of the Middle East to the frontiers of Europe and Central and South Asia are the macro elements of this market.

This conference aims at getting all the governmental, manufacturers, service companies, equipment providers, universities, research institutes and related associations, both Iranian and international, to interact and share the experiences and expertise in all pipe and pipeline fields. [More info](#)

## Publications

### ITOPF: NEW EDITION OF ITOPF HANDBOOK NOW AVAILABLE



The 2011/2012 edition of the ITOPF Handbook has just been published. The Handbook contains a wealth of valuable information and guidance for those likely to be involved in spills of oil and chemicals from ships. This year's edition contains updated information on oil spill statistics, compensation and a revised table on the classification of oils. Information is also provided on ITOPF's technical and information services, the fate and effects of marine oil spills, clean-up techniques, the organisation of spill response and planning, the status of international conventions and ITOPF publications.

Download the [full version](#) in PDF format (3.41Mb)

Hard copies of the Handbook are also available. They are free to ITOPF Members and Associates, as well as to closely related groups. Single copies are also available to others on request - contact [Terry Goodchild](#).

---

### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: SPILL CONTROL FOR ABOVEGROUND TANKS

"Coffee Break Training" –One of a series produced by the USFA. Focus is on the importance of proper containment measures at tank farms. [Download](#) [Thanks to pcjr of Hazmat 101 Group for providing this link]

---

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this Newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. If an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in the next issue of this Newsletter. Products and services featured in the ISCO Newsletter and/or the ISCO website, including the International Directory of Spill Response Supplies and Services, have not been tested, approved or endorsed by ISCO. Any claims made by suppliers of products or services are solely those of the suppliers and ISCO does not accept any liability for their accuracy.

---